



REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

July 3, 2017

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 14-58, 47 CFR § 54.313 Annual Reporting Requirements for High-Cost Recipients (Form 481)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Attached please find East Ascension Telephone Company's high-cost support recipient annual report pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.313 (Form 481).

East Ascension Telephone Company is filing certain financial information, reported pursuant to 47 CFR §54.313(f)(2), as confidential under the March 22, 2016 Protective Order (DA 16-296). Pursuant to that Order, each page of this filing has been marked "REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION." The non-redacted version of this information has been marked "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION." As such, East Ascension Telephone Company requests that the non-redacted version of its submission be withheld from public inspection.

The redacted version of this Form 481 submission will be filed via the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) in the above-captioned docket.

If you have any questions about this filing, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Hardage
Alexicon, Inc.

Attachment

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting
Data Collection Form**FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	270429
<015>	Study Area Name	EAST ASCENSION TEL
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Janet Britton
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	2256214498 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	janet.britton@eatel.com
	Form Type	54.313 and 54.422

(200) Service Outage Reporting (Voice)
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	270429
<015>	Study Area Name	EAST ASCENSION TEL
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Janet Britton
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<210> For the prior calendar year, were there any reportable voice service outages? No

[illegible]

**(300) Unfulfilled Service Request
Data Collection Form**FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	270429
<015>	Study Area Name	EAST ASCENSION TEL
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<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Janet Britton
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2256214498 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	janet.britton@eatel.com

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)

0

<310> Detail on attempts (voice)

Name of Attached Document

<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)

0

<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)

Name of Attached Document

<010>	Study Area Code	270429
<015>	Study Area Name	EAST ASCENSION TEL
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Janet Britton
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2256214498 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	janet.britton@eatel.com
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed voice	
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	0 . 0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed broadband	
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	0 . 0
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	janet.britton@eatel.com
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
2704291a510.pdf		
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	
<515>	Certify compliance with applicable minimum service standards	

(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations		FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
		July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	janet.britton@eatel.com
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	2704291a610.pdf

<010>	Study Area Code	270429
<015>	Study Area Name	EAST ASCENSION TEL
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-- See attached worksheet --

**(800) Operating Companies
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	270429
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	janet.britton@eatel.com
<810>	Reporting Carrier	East Ascension Telephone Company, LLC
<811>	Holding Company	EATELCORP, L.L.C.
<812>	Operating Company	East Ascension Telephone Company, LLC

[illegible]

**(900) Tribal Lands Reporting
Data Collection Form**

 FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	janet.britton@eatel.com

<900> Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N) No

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached PDF, on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

**(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	janet.britton@eatel.com

<1000> Voice services rate comparability certification Yes

<1010> Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance 2704291a1010.pdf

Name of Attached Document

<1020> Broadband comparability certification Yes - Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by the Wireline Competition Bureau

<1030> Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

**(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

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<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)

Yes

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers
Lifeline
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	janet.britton@eatel.com

2704291a1210.pdf

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP <http://www.eatel.com/policies/lifeline>

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- | | | |
|--------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <1221> | Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1222> | Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1223> | Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	270429
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Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

- <2011> 3rd Year Certification 47 CFR §54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 2017 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support.
- <2022> Recipient certifies, representing year three after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4 Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2023> The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2024A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?
- <2024B> Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2025A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?
- <2025B> Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 2 for year three) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-73, paragraph 35 (May 22, 2013).
- <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

July 2013

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}

<2016> Certification support used to build broadband

Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}

<2017A> Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?

<2017C> Total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2016.

<2018> Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(A)

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

<2019> Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(C)

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation
Data Collection Form

 FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

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Select from the drop down menu or check the boxes below to note compliance with 54.313(f)(1). Privately held carriers must ensure compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3009)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)		
		Yes - Attach Certification	
(3010A)	Certification of Public Interest Obligations {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)}		
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	2704291a3010.pdf
(3012A)	Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)}	No - No New Community Anchors	
(3012B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)}	(Yes/No)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:			
(3015)	Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(3016)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?	(Yes/No)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:			
(3019)	Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
(3021)	Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:			
(3022)	Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(3025)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	2704291a3026.pdf

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	janet.britton@eatel.com

Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

<010>	Study Area Code	270429
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4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission’s public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

4001. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<hr/>
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Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80)

4004a. Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing deadline for the FCC Form 481.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<hr/>
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4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband speed and data usage allowances available in the relevant geographic area.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<hr/>
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**Certification - Reporting Carrier
Data Collection Form**

 FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

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TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	janet.britton@eatel.com

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) <u>Alexicon, Inc.</u> is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	Alexicon, Inc.
Name of Reporting Carrier:	EAST ASCENSION TEL
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/29/2017
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Peter Louviere
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	Chief Financial Officer
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	2256214118 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	270429 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/03/2017
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	EAST ASCENSION TEL
Name of Authorized Agent Firm:	Alexicon, Inc.
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/29/2017
Name of Authorized Agent Employee:	Malcolm Hardage
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent	Sr. Client Manager
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	9183769901 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	270429 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/03/2017
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Attachments

(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

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1/1/2017

<703>

[illegible]

(710) Broadband Price Offerings Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	270429
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[illegible]

(800) Operating Companies	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

East Ascension Telephone Company

Demonstration of Compliance with Applicable Service Quality Standards and

Consumer Protection Rules

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,¹ the FCC found that an ETC must make “a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers.”² The Commission found that for wireless ETCs, compliance with CTIA’s Consumer Code for Wireless Service would satisfy this requirement and that the sufficiency of other commitments would be considered on a case-by-case basis. In this context, the FCC stated, “to the extent a wireline or wireless ETC applicant is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law, compliance with such laws may meet our requirement.”³

East Ascension Telephone Company (“Company”) hereby certifies that it is complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules under state and federal law. These provisions include, but are not limited to, the following: 1) Customer Service Regulations for Telecommunications Service in LPSC Docket No. U-24856;³ 2) “Slamming” requirements in Docket No. U-25754;⁴ 3) Docket No. U-24050 containing rules and regulations concerning Telecommunications Service Provider billing;⁵ 4) Truth-in-Billing Rules contained at

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46 (rel. Mar. 17, 2005) (“*2005 ETC Order*”).

² *Id.* at para. 28.

³ *Louisiana Public Service Commission General Order*, Docket No. U-24856 - In re: Customer Service Regulations for Telecommunications Service Providers. (Decided at the Business and Executive Session held November 2, 2000)

⁴ *Louisiana Public Service Commission General Order*, Docket No. U-25754 - In re: Possible Amendments to the June 5, 1998 General Order (“Slamming”). (Decided at Business and Executive Session held April 24, 2002)

⁵ *Louisiana Public Service Commission General Order*, Docket No. U-24050 –In re: Rules and regulations concerning Telecommunications Service Provider (“TSP”) billing. (Decided at Business and Executive Session held June 21, 2000)

47 CFR § 64.2401; and, 5) compliance with Federal CPNI rules, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

The Company is subject to consumer protection obligations for broadband services under federal law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: public disclosure of accurate information regarding network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of broadband internet access services; as a means of providing sufficient information for consumers to make informed choices regarding use of such services, and for content, application, service and device providers to develop, market, and maintain internet offerings as specified in F.C.C. 47 C.F.R. Part 8 §8.3.

East Ascension Telephone Company's Demonstration of Ability to Function in Emergency Situations

East Ascension Telephone Company ("Company") hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in §54.202(a)(2).¹ In addition, the Company is in compliance with the FCC's backup requirements effective October 16, 2015. The Company's voice and broadband network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2). The Company can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations will also allow the Company to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require.

Specifically, each central office building is supplied with standby generators and battery back-up that enable the central office to keep running until power is restored so long as fuel is available, or until system changes are made to reroute traffic. The Company has battery backup at all office locations and in its electronic equipment sites. Length of run time is determined by the equipment serving the area and the number of customers working out of the equipment. Generators are installed at all Central Office locations. They will continue to run as long as the Company has access to fuel.

¹ Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to "demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations."

East Ascension Telephone Company (SAC 270429)

Statement Regarding Voice Rate Comparability

47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(10)

Form 481, Line 1010

East Ascension Telephone Company is a rate of return regulated incumbent local exchange carrier operating in the state of Louisiana, and is an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) designated by the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC). As such, East Ascension Telephone Company is subject to the regulatory authority of the LPSC and operates under the relevant rules and laws of the state of Louisiana.

East Ascension Telephone Company hereby certifies that the pricing of its voice services is no more than two standard deviations above the national average urban rate for voice service, \$49.51, as specified in the February 14, 2017 Public Notice issued by the Wireline Competition Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission.

East Ascension Telephone Company's residential voice service rates, including state fees and the federal subscriber line charge (SLC) are as follows.

Monthly rate for all exchanges is \$25.34.

By: Josh Descant, President
Issued: November 9, 2016

Effective: December 2, 2016

GENERAL EXCHANGE SERVICES TARIFF NO. 2

A3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

A3.12 Network Access Service

A3.12.1 General

- A. Network Access is provided for those customers subscribing to HighCap Channel service or HighCap ISDN service. The charges following in A3.12.2 are applicable only on those lines, trunks, or Network Access Registers (NAR) provided for local network access.
- B. When the facility portion of a Centrex service main station line is provided on HighCap Channel service, network access will be provided at the following charges for Centrex service. These rates replace those described in A3.11.3.

A3.12.2 Rates and Charges

	<u>Monthly Rate</u>	(Deleted)
A. Network Access Service-HighCap Channel Service, HighCap ISDN		
I. Rate per line, trunk or NAR		
(a) Inward only	\$20.00	(Deleted)
(b) Outward only	20.00	(Deleted)
(c) Both Way	20.00	(Deleted)

A3.13 Lifeline

A3.13.1 Description of Service

- A. The Lifeline program is designed to increase the availability of telecommunications services to low income subscribers by providing a monthly recurring local service credit for qualifying residential subscribers. Basic terms and conditions are in compliance with the FCC's Order on Lifeline and Linkup Reform and Modernization Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Support in CC Docket 16-38, which complies with the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Specific terms and conditions are as prescribed by the Louisiana Public Service Commission and are as set forth in this tariff. (T)
- B. Lifeline is supported by the Federal Universal Service support mechanism.
- C. Federal baseline support of \$9.25 per month is available for each Lifeline service and is passed through to the subscriber. The amount of credit will not exceed the charge for local service.

By: Josh Descant, President
Issued: November 9, 2016

Effective: December 2, 2016

GENERAL EXCHANGE SERVICES TARIFF NO. 2

A3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

A3.13 Lifeline (Cont'd)

A3.13.2 A. Regulations

1. (Deleted)
2. One low-income credit is available per household.
3. A Lifeline customer may subscribe to any local service offering available to other residence customers.
4. Toll blocking, if elected, will be provided at no charge to the Lifeline subscriber.
5. The deposit requirement is not applicable to a Lifeline customer who subscribes to toll blocking. If a Lifeline customer removes toll blocking prior to establishing an acceptable credit history, a deposit may be required. When applicable, advance payments will not exceed the connection and local service charges for one month.
6. (Deleted)
7. A Lifeline subscriber's local service will not be disconnected for non-payment of regulated toll charges. Local service may be denied for non-payment of local charges in accordance with Section A2. Access to toll service may be denied for non-payment of regulated tolls. A Lifeline subscriber's request for reconnection of local service will not be denied if the service was previously denied for non-payment of toll charges.

B. Eligibility

1. To be eligible for a Lifeline credit, a customer must be a current recipient of any of the following low-income assistance programs. (N)
 - a. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - b. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - c. Medicaid
 - d. Federal Public Housing—Section 8
 - e. Veteran's Pension or Survivor's Pension
2. Additionally, customers not receiving benefits under one of the preceding programs, and whose total gross annual income does not exceed 135% of the federal poverty guidelines, meet the requirements of a State established means test and may apply directly to the Company for eligibility certification.
3. All applications for service are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program.

By: John D. Scanlan, President & Vice Chairman
Issued: September 20, 2013

Effective: October 4, 2013

GENERAL EXCHANGE SERVICES TARIFF NO. 2

A3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

A3.13 Lifeline (Cont'd)

A3.13.2 Regulations (Cont'd)

B. Eligibility (Cont'd)

4. Customer must notify Company when they are no longer eligible for Lifeline service.

C. Certification

1. The Lifeline credit will not be established until proof of eligibility has been received by the Company. If the customer requests installation prior to the Company's receipt of proof of eligibility, the requested service will be provided without the Lifeline credit. When eligibility documentation is provided subsequent to installation, the Lifeline credit will be provided on a going forward basis. (T)
2. (Deleted) (D)
3. The Company reserves the right to periodically audit its records, working in conjunction with the appropriate state agencies, for the purpose of determining continuing eligibility. Information obtained during such audit will be treated as confidential information to the extent required under State and Federal laws. The use or disclosure of information concerning enrollees will be limited to purposes directly connected with the administration of the Lifeline plan.
4. When a customer is determined to be ineligible as a result of an audit, the Company will contact the customer. If the customer cannot provide eligibility documentation, the Lifeline credit will be discontinued.

A3.13.3 Rates and Charges

A. General

1. Lifeline is provided as a monthly credit of \$9.25 on the eligible residential subscriber's access line bill for local service.
2. Service Charges in Section A4 are applicable for installing or changing Lifeline service.

East Ascension Telephone Company (SAC 270429)

Progress Report on 5 Year Plan – Milestone Certification

47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(1)(i)

Form 481, Line 3010

East Ascension Telephone Company hereby certifies pursuant to 47 CFR 54.313(f)(1)(i) that it is taking all reasonable steps to provide, upon reasonable request, broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 mbps downstream and 1 mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas, and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable time frame.

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